

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed November 9, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination*. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 27, 2003; and August 22, 2006.

Claims 1-43 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 25 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner (Box 4a, Office Action Summary, Paper No. 20061101). Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13-24, 26 and 28-43 are currently elected, of which claims 1, 3, 13, 19, 28 and 29 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 13, 19, 28 and 29 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

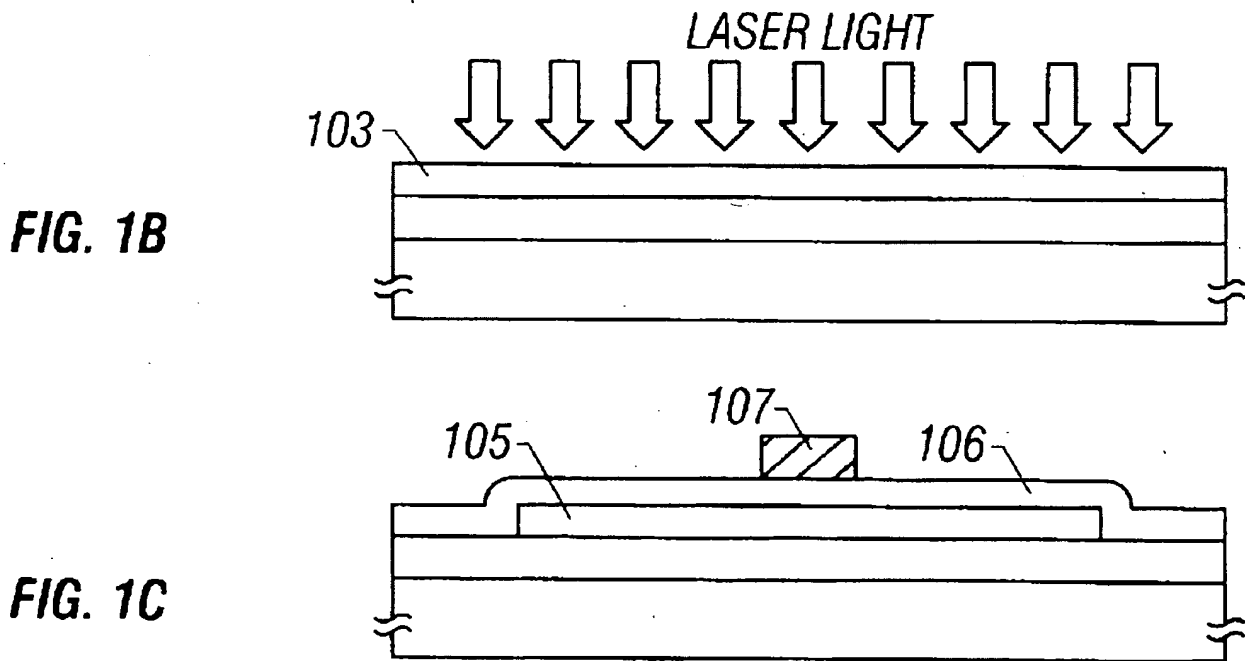
The Official Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15-24, 26 and 28-43 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,165,876 to Yamazaki. The Applicant respectfully submits that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Independent claims 1, 3, 13, 19, 28 and 29 have been amended to recite removing a surface portion of a crystalline semiconductor film, after irradiation, where a remaining portion at least partly overlaps the surface portion before removing, which is supported in the present specification, for example, by Figures 7D and 7E. In other

words, for example, prior to removing surface portion 108 (Figure 7D), the remaining portion 107/109 at least partly overlaps the surface portion 108. For the reasons provided below, the Applicant respectfully submits that Yamazaki does not teach the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.

In the "Response to Arguments" section, the Official Action asserts that "Yamazaki teaches, in figure 1C, that an entire side portion (surface portion) is etched to create a semiconductor island" (page 6, Paper No. 20061101). That is, the Official Action appears to be taking the position that the portions of amorphous silicon film 103 that are etched correspond to the surface portion of the present claims, and that the resulting island-like silicon region 105 (Figure 1C) corresponds with the remaining portion of the present claims (Figures 1B and 1C reproduced below).



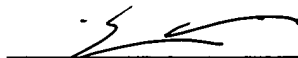
The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the assertions in the Official Action. Specifically, the portions of amorphous silicon film 103 that are etched (the left and right sides of Figure 1B) do not correspond to a surface portion of the amorphous silicon film 103. In any event, the Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite that a remaining portion at least partly overlaps the surface portion before

removing. The Applicant respectfully submits that the island-like silicon region 105 of Yamazaki does not at least partially overlap the portions of amorphous silicon film 103 that are etched. Therefore, Yamazaki does not teach removing a surface portion of a crystalline semiconductor film, after irradiation, where a remaining portion at least partly overlaps the surface portion before removing, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Yamazaki does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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